Westland helicopters

1768. SHRI SUKOMAL SEN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) what was the opinion of the Project Appraisal Division of the Planning Commission on Westland helicopters;

(b) whether the opinion was conveyed to all concerned including the Finance and Civil Aviation Ministries; and

(c) if so, what were the opinions of these two Ministries in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) to (c) Appraisal notes are internal documents to aid the decision making process relating to investments.

Literacy rate in M.P

1769. SHRI AJIT P. K. JOGI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that the percentage of literacy according to 1981 census was less than five per cent in fourteen blocks and female literacy was five per cent in 88 blocks in Madhya Pradesh; and

(b) if so, whether Government propose to extend any special financial assistance to tackle this problem of illiteracy among tribals particularly among tribal girls?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The following steps have been taken to tackle the problem of illiteracy especially among tribals/girls in Madhya Pradesh:

(i) *Rural Functional Literacy Projects*

This is a major centrally sponsored scheme under which cent per cent financial assistance is provided by the Central Government, although the scheme is implemented by the State Government. At present, 52 projects of 300 adult education centres each are functioning in 45 districts of the State of Madhya Pradesh. Under this scheme, emphasis is laid on the coverage of women, scheduled castes and scheduled tribes.

(ii) *Assistance to voluntary agencies*

Voluntary Agencies are encouraged to take up adult education programme for women, scheduled castes and scheduled tribes particularly in low literacy areas. Central Government provides 100 per cent central assistance for this purpose and 24 voluntary agencies have been covered in the State of Madhya Pradesh.

(iii) *State Adult Education Programme*

Efforts are continuously being made to step up the coverage of adult education programme through schemes funded by the State Government. At present 7,457 Adult Education Centres have been covered during 1986-87 under this scheme.

(iv) *Post-Literacy and Follow-up Programme*

The Central Government also release grants to the Government of Madhya Pradesh for undertaking Post-literacy and Follow-up activities for neo-literates so that they may not lapse into illiteracy.

(v) *Mass Programme for Functional Literacy*

This programme has also been launched to involve NSS/Non-NSS and other educated volunteers to participate in the programme of re-